



The Bar Council

BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2020

Bar and Young Bar Conference

[Legal Futures](#), [The Times](#) (print and [online](#)), [Law Society Gazette](#), PA Media, [The Guardian](#), [MSN](#), [Yahoo News](#) – The media report on this week's Bar Council Annual Bar and Young Bar Conference.

The media report on speeches delivered at the conference by Chair of the Bar, Amanda Pinto QC, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Burnett of Maldon and the conference's session on race at the Bar.

Judicial review

[Financial Times](#) (print and [online](#)) – The FT reports that judges and lawyers have warned that curbing judicial review could undermine democracy and reduce access to justice for the vulnerable.

It follows the government's commissioning of a panel, chaired by former minister Edward Faulks, to examine the case for reform of judicial review.

Lord Dyson and Lord Sumption, formerly of the Supreme Court, have questioned the need for the review, whilst the FT quotes **Amanda Pinto QC, Chair of the Bar**. She said she did not see why the Faulks panel was necessary, given judicial review enabled oversight of the state.

"It is vital to have a way of reversing decisions by government departments that have been wrongly made," she added.

Gender pay gap

[New Law Journal](#) – NLJ reports that the gender pay gap at the Bar is "alive and well", the Chair of the Bar, Amanda Pinto QC, has said, after new figures looking at individual practice areas revealed "shocking discrepancies".

The statistics, published last week, showed women were under-represented in most practice areas and tended to receive less money. For example, in family, one of the few practice areas where there are more women (52% of practitioners) than men, they made less money (37% of the total).

Pinto said: "We must confront, not hide, this profession-wide problem. The fair allocation of work must be embedded across the whole Bar."

Barristers' appearances

Evening Standard, Legal Cheek, MSN, Yahoo News, Marseille News – In articles about barristers' appearances and attire, **Chair of the Bar, Amanda Pinto QC** is quoted. She says: "The barristers' profession in 2020 wants to attract the best talent from as wide and diverse a pool of people as possible and the way someone looks, dresses and their hairstyle should not be what matters. What matters most is their ability to be an exceptionally able advocate."

The story covers comments made by the late Sir Robert Johnson, former High Court judge and former Chair of the Bar about the appearance and attire of barristers. His comments were recently highlighted by the immediate former Chair of the Bar, Richard Atkins QC.

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Starting shortly at **#barconf** 2020: our international practice panel session with the Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Vos, **@MehvishChaudhry** and Rachel Barnes, chaired by Steven Thompson QC.



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Shadow Justice Secretary [@DavidLammy](#) makes a surprise appearance tonight at our [#BarConf](#) session on Taking action: Race at the Bar.



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